

REMARKS:

Applicant has carefully considered the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004.

Reconsideration of the application in view of this amendment in response thereto is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is objected to because of an informality which has now been corrected.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,930,932 to Petersen. The Petersen reference discloses a shooting rest. However, the Examiner's reliance on element 11 of Petersen as being a first arcuate support base on the first leg 12 and a second arcuate support base on the second leg 14 is misplaced. Element 11 are end caps placed at the upper ends and lower ends of the legs 12, 14 (see column 2, line 66 through column 3, line 2). The Examiner's reliance on strap 33 is also misplaced. Elastic strap or cord 33 wraps around the shooting rest to hold it together for storage purposes when the shooting rest is folded up (see column 4, lines 13-19), not for fitting around the neck of a user as contended by the Examiner.

On the other hand, the present invention provides arcuate support bases on the first and second legs wherein each has a convex first surface and a concave second surface for resting on a user's thighs whereby the user can raise a long gun by simply pressing his thighs toward each other and can lower a long gun by simply moving his thighs away from each other (see page 8, line 4 through page 9, line 4; page 10, line 20 through page 11, line 7). Further, use of the present invention when supported by the user's thighs with the support strap around the user's

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neck holds the long gun in position for use without requiring the user to hold the long gun in his hands during periods of non-use (page 11, lines 7-10). Claim 2, which has been amended to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the Petersen reference, should now overcome the rejection over the Peterson reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

It is noted with appreciation that claims 1 and 3 are allowed as originally submitted.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if it is felt that the prosecution of this application may be expedited thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSE E. HOLMES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald R. Schoonover".

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